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NO. 54
HERE COMES "THE THING!"
"WHO STEALS MY BRAIN?"

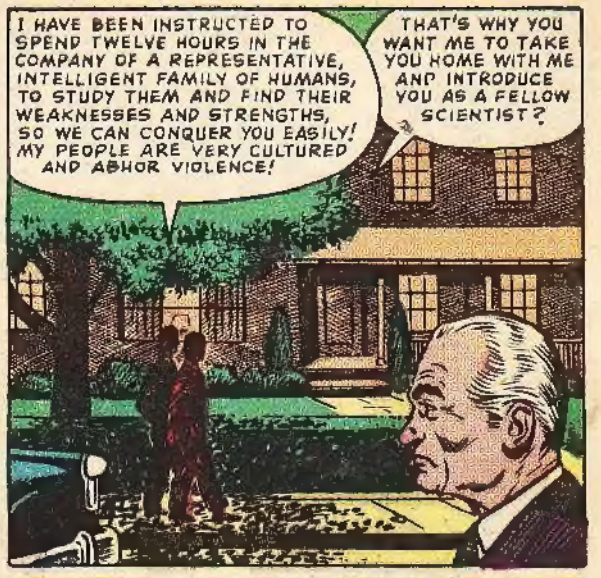
TWO MEN WALKING DOWN THE STREET, SIDE BY SIDE! IT SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH, AND IN MOST CASES IT IS! BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, IT IS FAR FROM NORMAL! FOR ONE MAN, BRAD FOREST, IS A SCIENTIST AND THE OTHER MAN, MR. OCTI, ISN'T EVEN A HUMAN BEING!

WHO STEALS MY BRAIN

IF I COULD SHOUT, "THE MAN WALKING NEXT TO ME IS NOT A MAN, NOT HUMAN! HE IS AN ALIEN LIFE FORM FROM ANOTHER PLANET, FROM ORION II..."
BUT YOU CANNOT CALL OUT! YES, OF COURSE I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS!

WHY DID YOU PICK ON ME?
YOU ARE AN EARTHLING SCIENTIST, WORKING ON SPACE FLIGHT! WE KNOW IT IS CLOSER TO REALIZATION THAN HUMANS THINK! IT IS ONE OF THE THINGS I HAVE COME TO EARTH TO FIND OUT!

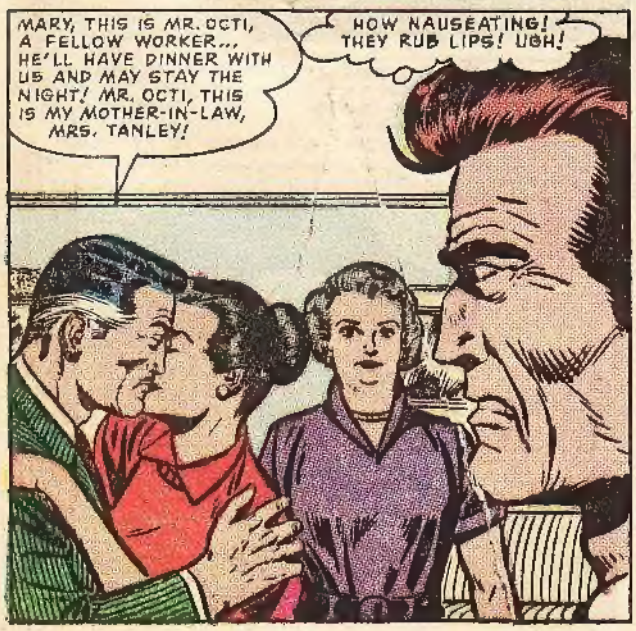
ORION II IS A SMALL PLANET, OVER-POPULATED WITH MY RACE! WE MUST FIND ANOTHER PLANET TO OCCUPY AND WE KNOW THAT ONLY ONE RACE CAN RULE A PLANET! YOURS IS A FINE PLANET, POSSESSING ALL WE NEED... THAT IS WHY I WAS SENT TO SCOUT IT!


I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SPEND TWELVE HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF A REPRESENTATIVE, INTELLIGENT FAMILY OF HUMANS, TO STUDY THEM AND FIND THEIR WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS, SO WE CAN CONQUER YOU EASILY! MY PEOPLE ARE VERY CULTURED AND ABHOR VIOLENCE!
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME AND INTRODUCE YOU AS A FELLOW SCIENTIST?

EXACTLY! YOUR FAMILY WILL SUFFER NO HARM FROM MY VISIT! ON MY PLANET, A GREAT SPACE FLEET IS STANDING BY, WAITING FOR MY REPORT! IT WILL BE FILLED WITH MY PEOPLE AND THEY WILL COME HERE, AND BEFORE YOU EARTHLINGS KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, WE WILL BE IN CONTROL!
YOU LOOK LIKE A HUMAN... TELL ME, IS THIS YOUR TRUE APPEARANCE?

BANG! I GOT YOU! YOU'RE DEAD!
NO... I ASSUMED THIS HUMAN APPEARANCE AS A DISGUISE! I THINK YOUR HUMAN EIGHT WOULD BE SHOCKED IF YOU SAW ME AS I TRULY AM! WHAT ARE THESE YOUNG EARTHLINGS DOING?
PLAYING!

BANG! BANG!
PLAYING? A STARTLING WAY TO INSTILL CULTURE INTO THE YOUNG, THIS BARBARIC TYPE OF PLAY! THEY SHOW MARKED AGGRESSIVENESS!


MARY, THIS IS MR. OCTI, A FELLOW WORKER... HE'LL HAVE DINNER WITH US AND MAY STAY THE NIGHT! MR. OCTI, THIS IS MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, MRS. TANLEY!
HOW NAUSEATING! THEY RUB LIPS! UGH!

DINNER'S READY, SIT DOWN!
MAY I INQUIRE WHAT THIS FOOD IS?

FRIED CHICKEN... BEEF KIDNEY PIE... VEGETABLES, POTATOES, RAW SALAD... MILK OR COFFEE... AND APPLE PIE!
YOU EAT THE FLESH OF LIVING ANIMALS? YOU CONSUME LIVING PLANT LIFE? NO SYNTHETICS?
YOU WILL PLEASE EXCUSE ME... I AM NOT VERY HUNGRY!
THAT'S TOO BAD, MR. OCTI! CHICKEN'S REAL FRESH! SAW THE FARMER KILL THEM MYSELF!
IF I COULD ONLY TELL MARY... BUT HE STILL CONTROLS MY BRAIN AND SPEECH!
MA, IT'S TIME FOR THE WESTERNS! CAN WE BE EXCUSED?
YES, DEAR!
BOY, LOOK AT KID LARIAT SHOOT! BET HE GETS THOSE INJUNS!
THESE SO-CALLED "INJUNS" ARE EVIDENTLY ALIENS! THEY ARE NOT EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
THE CHILDREN INDOCTRINATED IN SUCH VIOLENCE! I AM HORRIFIED!
NO, THE "INJUNS" AREN'T ALIENS! AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY'RE JUST HEALTHY KIDS FILLED WITH ENERGY, AND THEY FIND RELEASE FROM THAT ENERGY IN THEIR PLAY AND RECREATION!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN! I CAN FORM MY OWN OPINIONS!
UP TO BED, CHILDREN! THIS IS DADDY'S NIGHT TO WATCH THE FIGHTS! I'VE CHANGED IT TO THE RIGHT STATION, BRAD!
... A TEN ROUNDER BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD RANKING HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDERS! IN THE BLACK TRUNKS, AT ONE-HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX...
WHAT IS THIS?
THE FIGHTS FROM MADISON SQUARE GARDEN!
3

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WATCH THE FIGHTS OVER T.V. AND THOUSANDS MORE PACK THE SPORTS ARENAS TO WITNESS THEM IN PERSON! IT IS ONE OF THE LEADING SPORTS!
SPORTS? NOT COMMUNAL SINGING...INTERPRETIVE COMPOSING? THAT IS WHAT MY PEOPLE CALL SPORTS! THIS IS SAVAGERY! MILLIONS OF YOUR PEOPLE WATCH THIS?

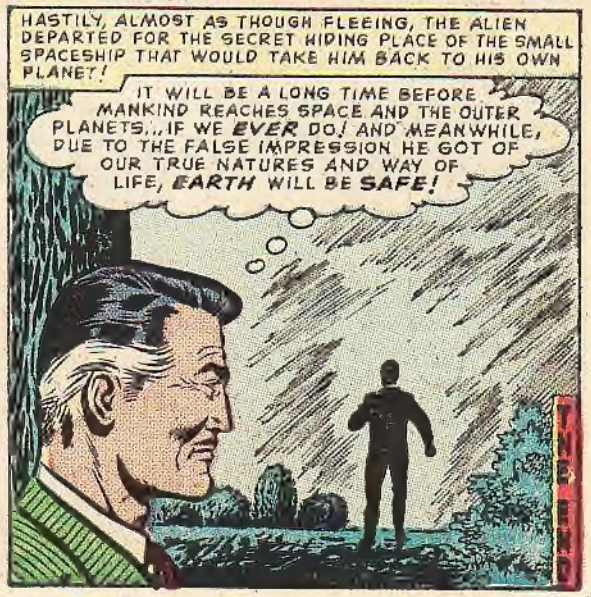
WELL, IF YOU DON'T CARE TO WATCH IT, I'LL TURN IT OFF!
LONG'S YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WATCH THE FIGHTS, I'M GOING TO WATCH THE WRESTLING MATCHES! ROCOCCO IS MATCHED AGAINST BIG BOY BERRIS TONIGHT!

A SHUDDER RAN THRU THE FRAME OF THE ALIEN! HE MOVED QUICKLY TOWARD THE DOOR...
AND BIG BOY HAS ROCOCCO IN A PUNISHING LEG-LOCK...
ATTABOY, BIG BOY!
I CAN'T STAND THIS!

AND AS BRAD FOLLOWED THE ALIEN, HE SUDDENLY FELT THE HOLD OVER HIS BRAIN WHICH THE CREATURE HAD HELD, LIFT AND SET HIM MENTALLY FREE!
YOU'VE RELEASED ME! WHY?
BECAUSE I AM GOING TO DEPART! I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER! I AM OVERWHELMED, HORRIFIED, BY THE SAVAGERY, THE VIOLENCE IN YOU EARTHLINGS!

I MUST REPORT BACK TO MY PLANET, WARN THEM NEVER TO COME NEAR EARTH! I SHUDDER TO THINK OF WHAT YOU EARTHLINGS WOULD DO TO MY POOR PEOPLE! WE MUST FIND ANOTHER PLANET TO SETTLE, NOT EARTH! I WILL MAKE A BARGAIN WITH YOU...

WE WILL NOT COME TO EARTH, IF HUMANS, WHEN THEY ATTAIN SPACE FLIGHT, WILL NOT COME TO ORION II!
I THINK I CAN GIVE YOU MY PROMISE THAT EARTH PEOPLE WILL NEVER COME TO ORION II... NOT IN MY LIFETIME, ANYWAY!


HASTILY, ALMOST AS THOUGH FLEEING, THE ALIEN DEPARTED FOR THE SECRET HIDING PLACE OF THE SMALL SPACESHIP THAT WOULD TAKE HIM BACK TO HIS OWN PLANET!
IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE MANKIND REACHES SPACE AND THE OUTER PLANETS...IF WE EVER DO! AND MEANWHILE, DUE TO THE FALSE IMPRESSION HE GOT OF OUR TRUE NATURES AND WAY OF LIFE, EARTH WILL BE SAFE!

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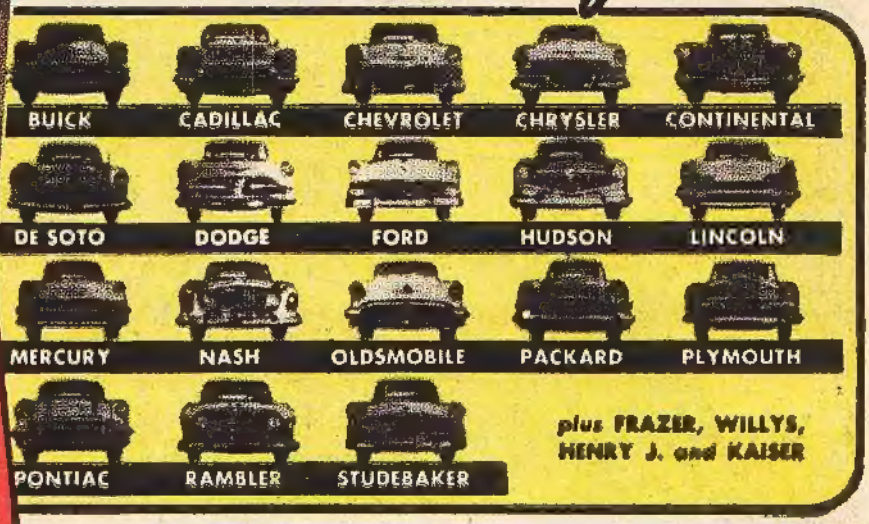

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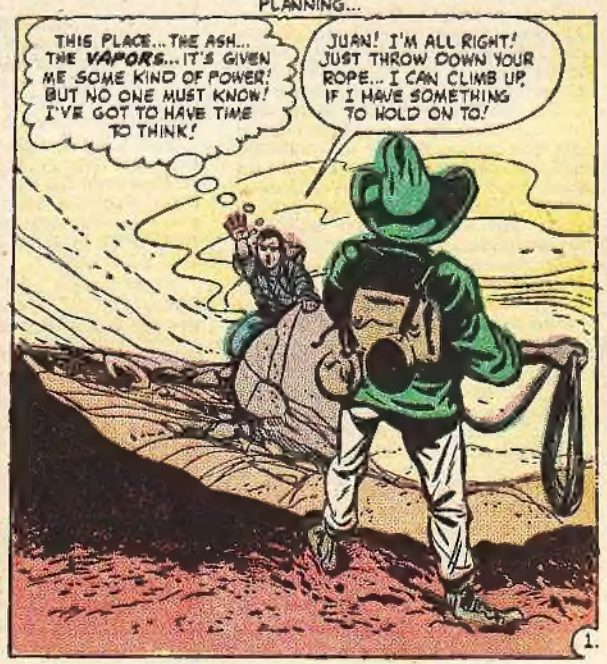
CHANCE HAD GIVEN WARREN AN UNCANNY POWER! HIS MISTAKE WAS IN ATTEMPTING TO USE THAT POWER TO MAKE HIMSELF A...

TYRANT!

IT HAPPENED ON THE THIRD DAY OF WARREN'S VACATION! DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE VOLCANO, HIS MAD SLIDE CAME TO A HALT! AND SUDDENLY, HE KNEW...

SUCH THINGS CANNOT BE! AT FIRST, WARREN DID NOT COMPREHEND YET EVEN THEN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND MUST HAVE BEEN AHEAD, PLANNING...


THIS PLACE... THE ASH... THE VAPORS... IT'S GIVEN ME SOME KIND OF POWER! BUT NO ONE MUST KNOW! I'VE GOT TO HAVE TIME TO THINK!
JUAN! I'M ALL RIGHT! JUST THROW DOWN YOUR ROPE... I CAN CLIMB UP, IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO!

POWER! WARREN WAS THINKING ABOUT IT AS HE CLIMBED! A MAN LIKE HIMSELF...A MAN IN POLITICS...WITH SUCH A POWER, WHAT MIGHT HE NOT ACCOMPLISH!
SENOR! YOU ARE NOT BADLY HURT? YOUR FOREHEAD...
NEVER MIND MY FOREHEAD!
BUT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HURT..
I SAID NEVER MIND! YOU'RE A GUIDE, NOT A DOCTOR! COME ON! WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE CAMP! I HAVE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON!
WHAT DID THE FEELINGS OF A MEXICAN GUIDE MATTER TO WARREN THEN? IN A DAY, HE WAS GONE, WITH THE DARK SCHEMES ALREADY ROLLING IN HIS BRAIN...
IT'S FANTASTIC! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT EVERYONE ON THE PLANE IS THINKING! NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME!
HOW MANY TIMES WAS HE TO GLOAT OVER HIS SECRET, IN THE DAYS AHEAD! BUT AT FIRST, HE MADE NO BOLD MOVES...
THEN YOU WON'T TELL ME HOW YOU INTEND TO VOTE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO BUY SURPLUS COPPER, GENTLEMEN?
WE'RE SENATORS, WARREN...IN THIS CASE, IT WOULD HARDLY BE ETHICAL! SORRY!
OF COURSE...I UNDERSTAND... THANKS!
THANKS.. FOR GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO READ YOUR MINDS! YOU ALL INTEND TO VOTE YES! WHICH MEANS IF I BUY COPPER SHARES, I'LL MAKE A FORTUNE!
FIRST, WARREN NEEDED MONEY, BUT THAT WAS SIMPLE! IT FLOWED INTO HIS POCKETS IN A GOLDEN CASCADE! THEN...
YOU'RE CERTAIN ANDREWS IS GOING TO RESIGN HIS POST? I THINK...
HAVE I EVER BEEN WRONG? I'LL DO THE THINKING! ANDREWS WILL RESIGN, WHICH GIVES US A CHANCE TO GET OUR OWN MAN INTO HIS JOB!
A MAN PLACED IN THE GOVERNMENT HERE, ANOTHER THERE...IT TOOK TIME, BUT IN THE END, THE DREAMS OF GLORY TOOK SHAPE ...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY? BUT...
I DIDN'T SAY THAT! I SAID I INTEND TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY! I INTEND TO RUN IT!

BUT YOU ALMOST DO THAT NOW! NO MAN IN OUR HISTORY HAS EVER BEEN SO POWERFUL! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? WHAT IF YOU FAIL?
FAIL? YOU FOOL! I CAN'T FAIL! I'M GOING TO BE THE GREATEST MAN ON EARTH! AND IF ANY OF YOU ARE AGAINST ME, I'LL KNOW!
YOU...DAVIS! I CAN TELL YOU'RE ON MY SIDE! YOU...SHAW! YOU'RE THINKING THAT...
I...I...WHAT'S HAPPENED? I CAN'T DO IT! I...
WARREN! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING! GET OUT! LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S FADING! THE POWER! IT'S SO WEAK, I COULD BARELY PICK UP THEIR THOUGHTS! I'M LOSING IT...
NO! I WON'T LOSE IT! IF I GO BACK TO THE VOLCANO, I CAN RENEW THE POWER! THEN I CAN GO ON! I CAN STILL BE THE GREATEST MAN ON EARTH!
THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK...NOT NOW! AND SO, ONLY A FEW DAYS LATER...
YOU WISH ME TO WAIT HERE IN THE CAMP? BUT, SENOR, YOU MUST NOT CLIMB ALONE! THE VOLCANO IS DANGEROUS!
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT! YOU STAY HERE!

EAGERLY WARREN BEGAN HIS CLIMB! IT WAS ALL SO SIMPLE, REALLY! IN AN HOUR, HE HAD REACHED HIS DESTINATION...

JUAN! HAVE YOU GONE MAD? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
TO PREVENT YOU FROM DOING SOMETHING YOU MUST NOT DO, SENOR! YOU MUST NOT CLIMB DOWN INTO THE CRATER!

YOU FOOL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME! I WON'T!
THE PISTOL IN MY HAND SAYS YOU WILL, SENOR! I REGRET, BUT WE ARE RETURNING TO THE CAMP... TOGETHER!

WARREN RAGED, PLEADED! BUT IT WAS NO USE...

AT LAST, AFTER THE LONG HOURS OF DAYLIGHT HAD CREPT BY, WARREN SLEPT, TO AWAKEN LATER STRANGELY REFRESHED...

AH! YOU ARE AWAKE, SENOR! YOU SLEPT WELL?
PERFECTLY, JUAN! THOUGH I DID HAVE A FUNNY DREAM! I DREAMED FOR SOME REASON YOU WERE HOLDING A GUN ON ME!

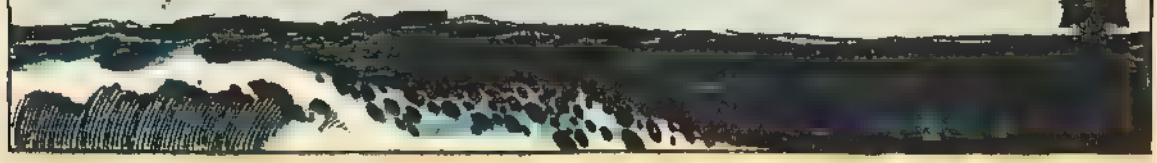
WARREN YAWNED, STRETCHED! AND THE POWER WAS GONE... COMPLETELY! HE DID NOT EVEN REMEMBER THAT HE EVER HAD IT...

BUT THAT'S NONSENSE, OF COURSE! THAT COFFEE SMELLS GOOD! I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME... I'M HUNGRY!
OF COURSE, SENOR! IT IS GOOD TO BE A NORMAL HEALTHY MAN, EH?
AS YOU ARE NOW, SENOR!

WARREN REMEMBERED NOTHING, BECAUSE THE GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD HAD CLIMBED THE VOLCANO THE DAY BEFORE... BUT THAT MAN WAS NOT WARREN!

NOW THE WORLD WILL REMAIN AT PEACE! IT IS WELL THAT I READ YOUR MIND YESTERDAY, AND THAT I DID NOT TELL YOU THAT WHEN I FELL INTO THE VOLCANO LAST YEAR, I FELL EXACTLY WHERE YOU DID!

TIME AND TIME AGAIN



ON a clear morning about nine days out of Lisbon, bound for Charlestown, N. C., the freighter *Bonnie Belle's* watch sighted something about two points off the port bow.

"Ho," he called loudly to the bridge, and every pair of glasses was turned on a weatherbeaten lifeboat drifting toward the West. As the freighter got within closer range, it was observed that there were three figures lying within the small boat. With all haste, the Captain ordered a boat put out to rescue and return with the men.

As everyone knows, there isn't very much excitement on one of these long freighter trips, and the few passengers and all the crew and officers were standing near the rail filled with curiosity when the *Bonnie Belle's* smallboat hove to along the side with her precious burden. When the men were finally raised to the deck, the Captain had to order everybody to their quarters immediately. It was easy to see right from the first that the men weren't hurt badly, but were just unconscious from exposure or possibly thirst. The Captain had them taken down to sick bay right away while the doctor tried to revive them. Everyone on the ship wanted to know the story of how they got there and what ship they were from, but the Captain wouldn't hear of it. He placed the rescued men under strict security regulations.

The Captain and the doctor were the only ones with the men when they started to regain consciousness and take a little hot broth. The first words out of their mouths were, "Where be I?"

Sailors are used to hearing different dialects and languages from all over the world, so it was a treat for the Captain to notice that the men spoke English. True, there was some kind of a dialect there, but it was still English, and the Captain was pleased at knowing that he would be able to hear their whole story first-hand after they had a good sleep.

"You take it easy now, men," the doctor warned.

"You'll be all right," the Captain assured them. "This is the American freighter *Bonnie Belle*, and we'll have you home again before you know it."

All the men now seemed alert enough, but they needed rest badly, so the helpful officers decided not to bother them with questions just yet. "Let them sleep," the doctor advised, "then after a good rest they'll feel like telling us just how everything happened and if there's anything else we can do."

The Captain agreed and immediately gave orders to the radio room to relay the message of the rescue to the Coast Guard. "Maybe we'll find out what ship they're from. Must have been a terrible accident," the skipper said, almost to himself.

"Begging your pardon, sir," the radioman suggested, "but I haven't heard anything about an SOS on the radio, and there hasn't been any weather trouble in these waters for a few months now."

"But how else could those men have been cast adrift on that lifeboat if it weren't for an accident or . . ."

"Or mutiny, sir," the radioman finished. Or maybe they're deserters, or escaped prisoners or . . ."

"That's quite enough," the Captain warned the crewman. Captain Lomax had, up until this time, pictured himself as quite a hero. He allowed his mind to wander and he could almost read the headlines in the papers about him rescuing these men who would have been adrift for a long time if it hadn't been for him. Now his mind took another turn, but this time not quite so romantic. He could now see himself as being mixed up in an international incident.

"No," he told himself. "It would be best if I didn't say anything about picking up these men until I've heard their own story." Then he turned and countermanded his last order. "Don't send that wireless yet," he snapped. "At least, not for a little while." And the Captain went back down to sick bay to confer with his friend the doctor.

It took some time, but within a few hours, all the three men had awakened, had eaten, and seemed to be in excellent spirits

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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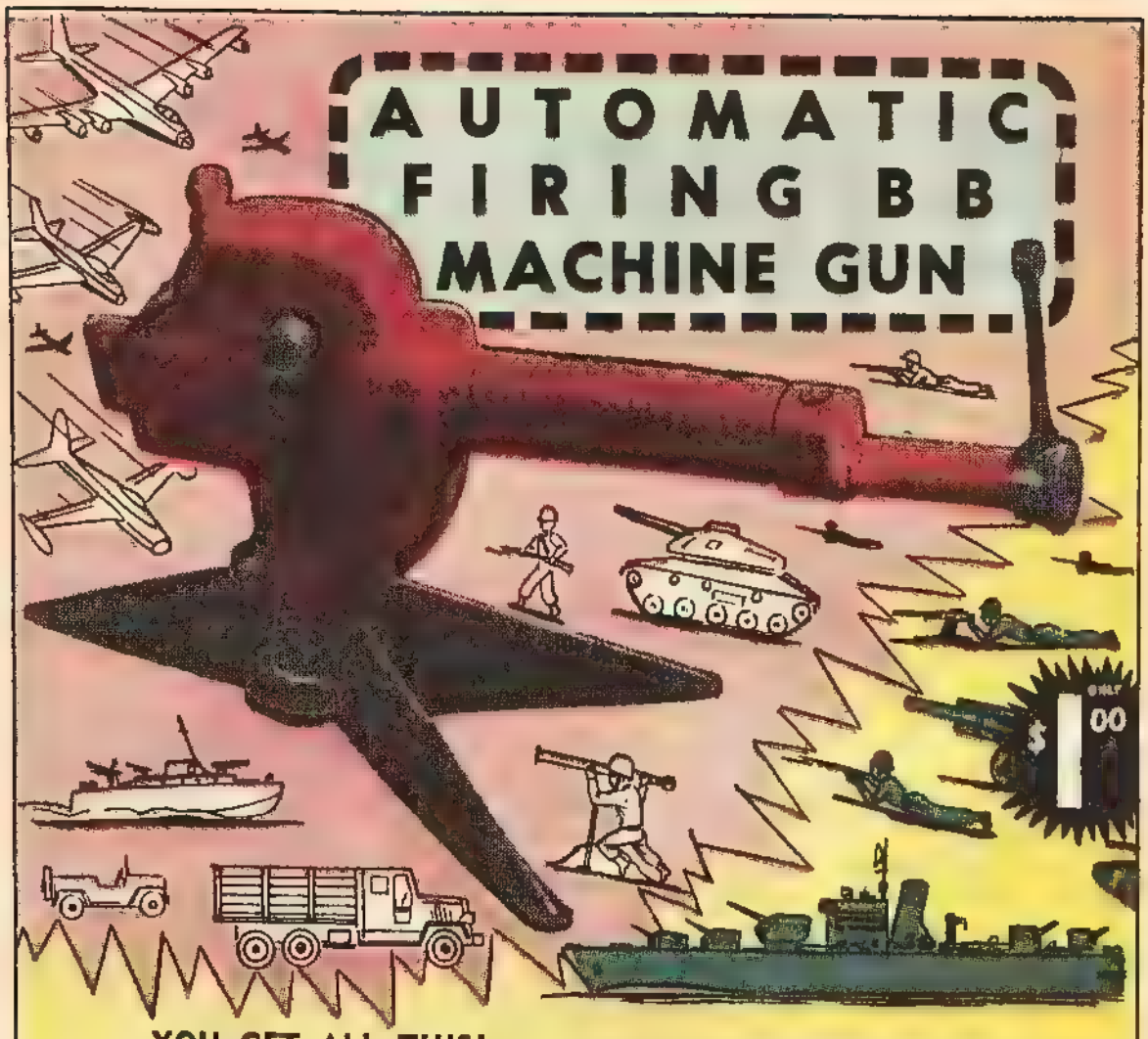

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NAME _____

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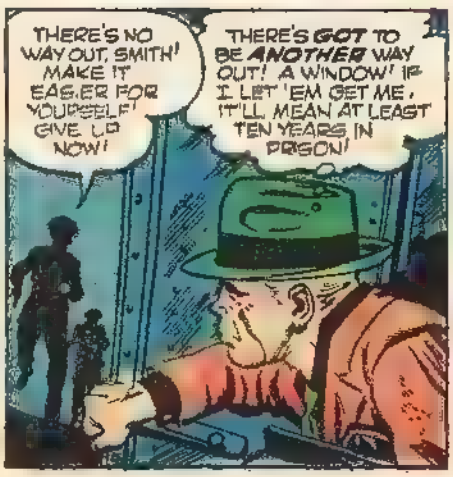
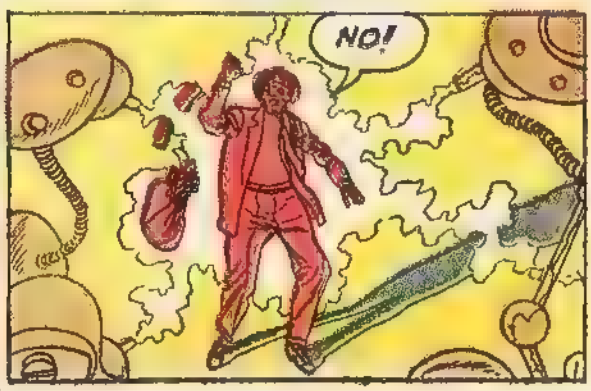
THERE SEEMED TO BE NO HOPE OF SAVING **SAM** FROM HIS OWN EVIL WAYS! BUT A SINGLE ACCIDENT IN A CYCLOTRON ENABLED THE LIAR AND THIEF TO SEE HIMSELF AS **OTHERS** SAW HIM...A STARTLING EXPERIENCE HE'D NEVER FORGET!

THE FOUR SAM SMITHS!

IT SEEMED TO SAM SMITH THAT THE THREE POLICE OFFICERS HAD MANEUVERED HIM INTO THE UNIVERSITY'S SCIENCE BUILDING, CLOSING IN ON HIM FROM THREE SIDES AS THEY DID! A NEAT TRAP!


THERE'S NO WAY OUT, SMITH! MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOURSELF! GIVE UP NOW!
THERE'S **GOT** TO BE **ANOTHER** WAY OUT! A WINDOW! IF I LET 'EM GET ME, IT'LL MEAN AT LEAST TEN YEARS IN PRISON!

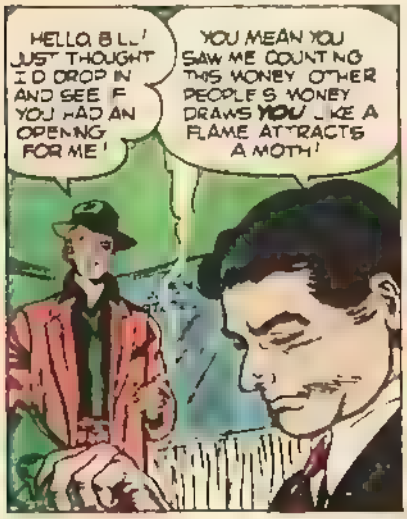
THERE CAME A CRESCENDO OF SOUND, A LOW HUM THAT GREW TO A LOUD, ANGRY WHINE! SAM CLUTCHED THE LOOT-FILLED VALISE CLOSER! THE POLICE WAITED OUTSIDE THE BOLTED DOOR...



I KNOW WHAT IT S A CYCLOTRON' I'M TRAPPED IN AN ATOM-SMASHER' THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD FOR ME..I SEE MY PAST LIFE.. PASS NG IN FRONT OF MY EYES'

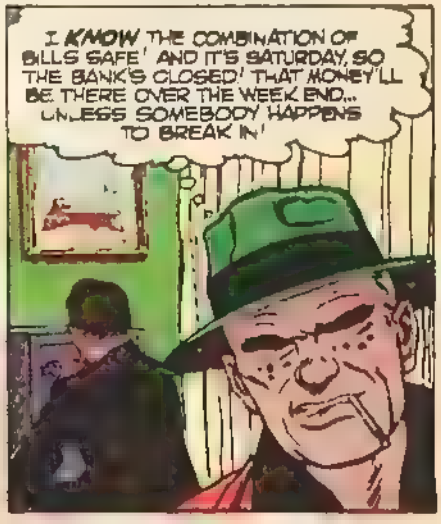
IN THOSE MOMENTS, SAM SAW THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY AS CLEARLY AS THOUGH THEY WERE JUST HAPPENING! IT HAD BEEN SATURDAY MORNING!

HE RECALLED BILL HADDON S STARTLED REACTION AS HE'D ENTERED THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE..

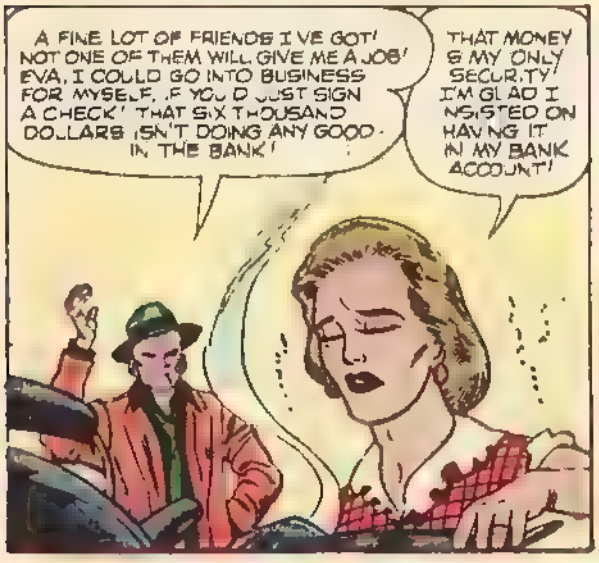

HELLO, B LL' JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN AND SEE F YOU HAD AN OPENNG FOR ME'
YOU MEAN YOU SAW ME COUNT NG THIS MONEY OTHER PEOPLE S MONEY DRAWS YOU LIKE A FLAME ATTRACTS A MOTH!

I'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF' EVA TOLD ME TO COME HERE.. SHE SAID MAYBE YOU'D GIVE ME MY OLD JOB BACK'
YOU DON'T DESERVE A GOOD WIFE LIKE EVA I WON'T TAKE YOU BACK SAM! I TOOK YOU BACK ONCE, AS A FR'END BUT TOO MUCH OF MY MONEY STUCK TO YOUR FINGERS'

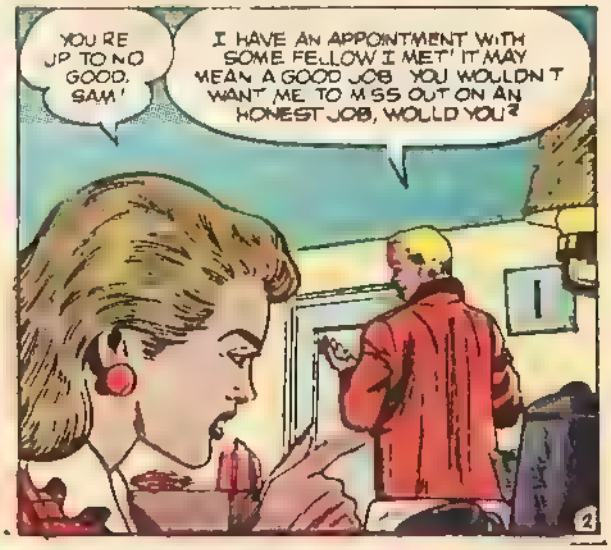
SAM SMITH HAD SHRUGGED AND LEFT WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD! BUT A CRAFTY LOOK HAD CROSSED HIS FACE..


I KNOW THE COMBINATION OF BILLS SAFE' AND IT'S SATURDAY, SO THE BANK'S CLOSED! THAT MONEY'LL BE THERE OVER THE WEEK END... UNLESS SOMEBODY HAPPENS TO BREAK IN!

HE'D GONE HOME TO REPORT TO HIS WIFE, EVA..


A FINE LOT OF FRIENDS I VE GOT! NOT ONE OF THEM WILL GIVE ME A JOB' EVA, I COULD GO INTO BUSINESS FOR MYSELF, F YOU D JUST SIGN A CHECK' THAT SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS ISN'T DOING ANY GOOD IN THE BANK!
THAT MONEY S MY ONLY SECURITY I'M GLAD I NSISTED ON HAVNG IT IN MY BANK ACCOUNT!

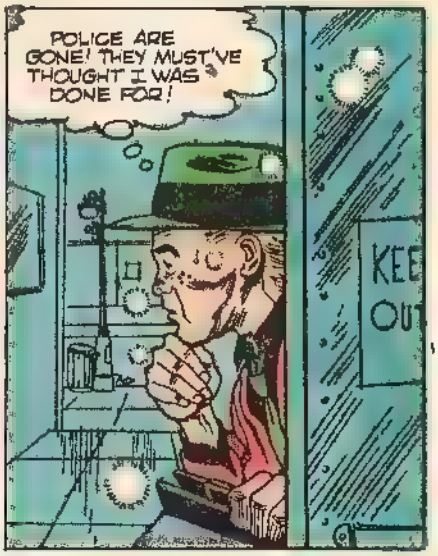
IT ALWAYS MADE EVA SUSPICIOUS WHEN SAM LEFT THE HOUSE AT NIGHT..


YOU RE UP TO NO GOOD, SAM'
I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOME FELLOW I MET' IT MAY MEAN A GOOD JOB YOU WOULDN T WANT ME TO M SS OUT ON AN HONEST JOB, WOULD YOU?

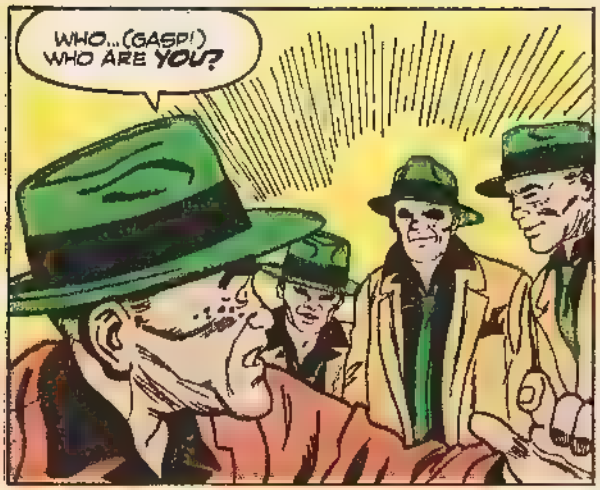
THE ONLY APPOINTMENT SAM SMITH HAD, WAS TO DO A JOB ON BILL HADDON'S SAFE..

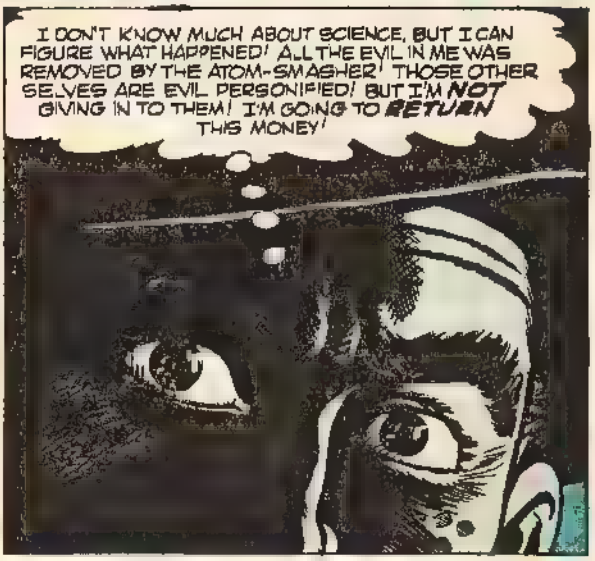
IT HADN'T WORKED OUT QUITE AS SAM PLANNED! HE HADN'T FIGURED ON BEING SEEN, AS HE CAME FROM THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE WITH HIS LOOT...

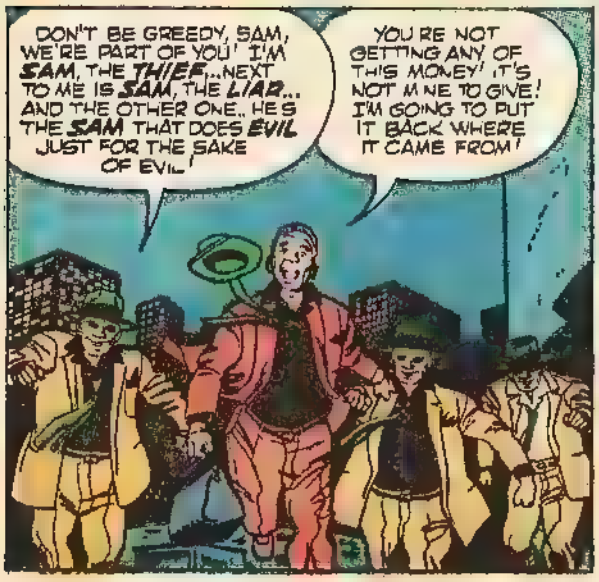
BUT HIS STARTLING EXPERIENCE IN THE CYCLOTRON WAS **NOT** THE END FOR SAM SMITH! IT WAS A STRANGE NEW BEGINNING!



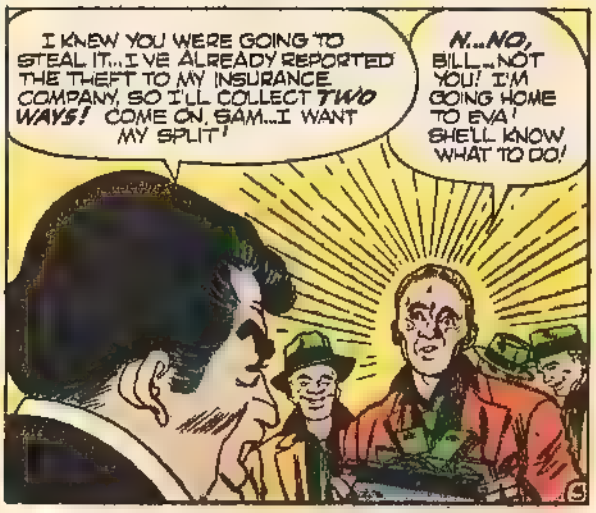
SUDDENLY, SAM HEARD THE LIGHT TREAD OF FOOTSTEPS BEHIND HIM! HE WHEELED, THEN SHRANK BACK AT THE SIGHT OF THE LEERING FACES BEFORE HIM...




I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SCIENCE, BUT I CAN FIGURE WHAT HAPPENED! ALL THE EVIL IN ME WAS REMOVED BY THE ATOM-SMASHER! THOSE OTHER SELVES ARE EVIL PERSONIFIED! BUT I'M **NOT** GIVING IN TO THEM! I'M GOING TO **RETURN** THIS MONEY!


DON'T BE GREEDY, SAM, WE'RE PART OF YOU! I'M **SAM**, THE **THIEF**...NEXT TO ME IS **SAM**, THE **LIAR**... AND THE OTHER ONE.. HE'S THE **SAM** THAT DOES **EVIL** JUST FOR THE SAKE OF EVIL!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY OF THIS MONEY! IT'S NOT MINE TO GIVE! I'M GOING TO PUT IT BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM!

THE EVIL TRIO FOLLOWED SAM SMITH BACK TO BILL HADDON'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE! SAM WAS NOT PREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENED THERE...


I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO STEAL IT...I'VE ALREADY REPORTED THE THEFT TO MY INSURANCE COMPANY, SO I'LL COLLECT **TWO WAYS!** COME ON, SAM...I WANT MY SPLIT!
N...NO, BILL...NOT YOU! I'M GOING HOME TO EVA! SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

FOUR TIMES ON HIS WAY HOME, SAM SMITH WAS STOPPED BY HIS FRIENDS WHOSE HONESTY HE HAD CONSIDERED UNIMPEACHABLE...

...OKAY, SAM, SO IT'S BLACKMAIL! BUT I WANT MY CUT OR I'LL HAVE A TALK WITH THE POLICE!

WELL, PAL, WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE? PAY ME OFF, OR GO TO PRISON!

SAM DEFIED THEM ALL! HE KNEW THERE WAS ONE PERSON HE COULD COUNT ON...

THESE GENTS ARE RIGHT, SAM! BILL HADDON CAN'T AFFORD TO SQUEAL! LOOK, WE'LL SPLIT THAT MONEY FIVE WAYS! I GOT A GOOD ALIBI FOR YOU!

NO! NO! THIS IS ALL MIXED UP! I'VE GOT TO THINK!

THAT'S NOT MY EVA! I THINK I KNOW NOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE CYCLOTRON! I WAS SENT INTO A STRANGE, EVIL WORLD! BUT I'M GLAD! NOW I KNOW HOW I MUST'VE LOOKED TO PEOPLE IN MY OWN WORLD! I'VE GOT TO GO BACK THERE!

HE KNEW THERE MUST BE ONE WAY OUT. AND HE TOOK IT! HE RISKED HIS LIFE AGAIN IN THE CYCLOTRON TO RETURN TO HIS OWN WIFE AND FRIENDS...

I'LL GET A JOB... IF I LIVE THROUGH THIS! I'LL MAKE GOOD!

WHEN ALL WAS DARK AND QUIET AGAIN, SAM STAGGERED HOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY SCIENCE BUILDING...

I HAVEN'T TIME TO TELL YOU ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH, DARLING! I'M A DIFFERENT MAN! I LIED TO YOU ABOUT SEEING A MAN FOR A JOB, BUT I'LL NEVER LIE AGAIN! I STOLE MONEY FROM BILL HADDON, BUT I'LL NEVER STEAL AGAIN! I'M GOING TO RETURN IT RIGHT NOW!

OH, SAM, THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY!

SAM SMITH HAD BEEN GONE ONLY A MINUTE, WHEN THE MEN HIDING IN HIS HOUSE CAME OUT INTO THE LIVING ROOM...

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US! PAYING THESE ACTORS, AND PROFESSOR WADE HELPING OUT WITH THE CYCLOTRON! YOU'RE SUCH WONDERFUL FRIENDS!

IT WAS WORTH EVERY CENT TO REFORM SAM! BESIDES, EVA, YOU TOOK A BIG RISK PUTTING ALL YOUR SAVINGS INTO THAT VALISE HE STOLE FROM MY SAFE! AFTER ALL, IN A WAY, IT WAS SAM'S OWN MONEY! IF OUR LITTLE STUNT HAD FAILED, YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE SEEN IT...OR SAM...AGAIN!

THE END

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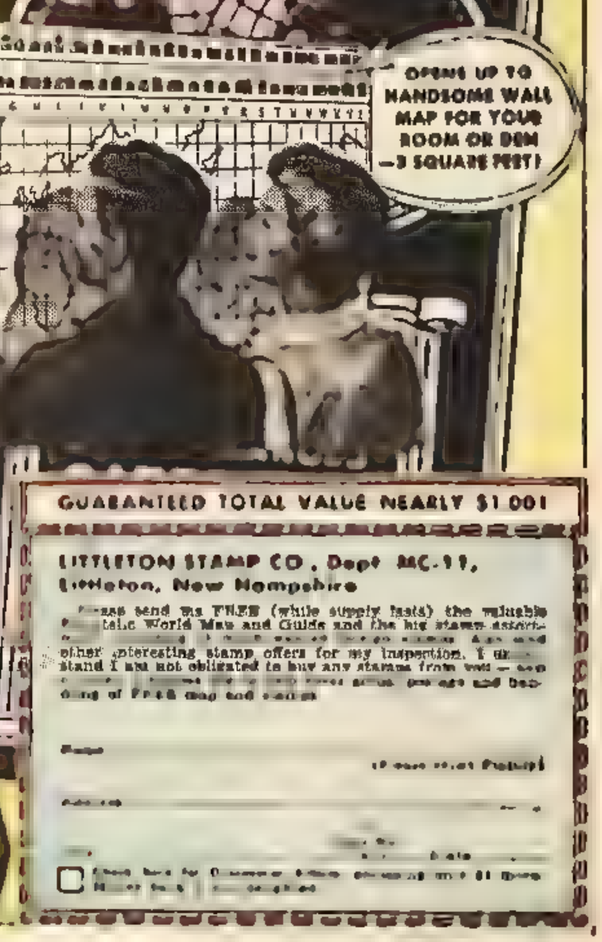

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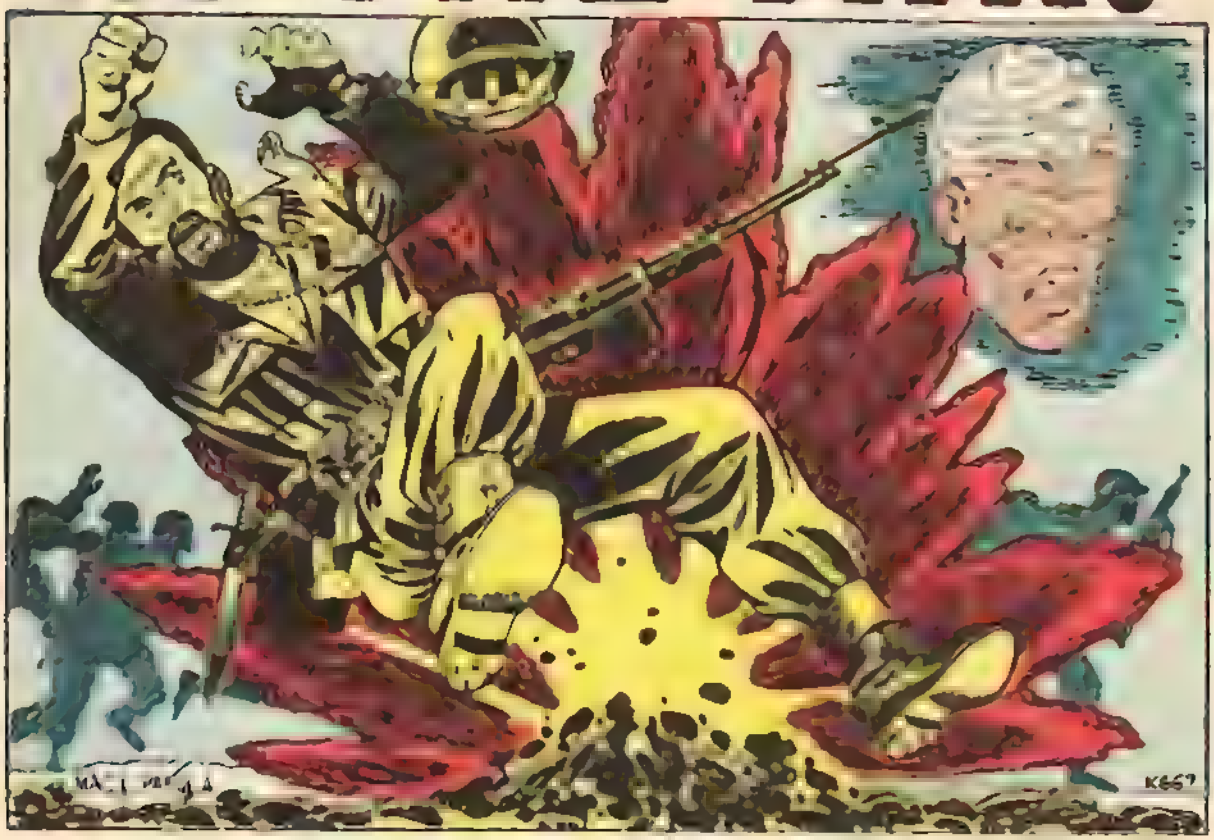
EVEN HURT AS HE WAS THE SERGEANT KNEW THAT IT WAS AN HALLUCINATION! IT HAD TO BE! THERE WAS NO LOGICAL REASON WHY HE SHOULD SEE...

THE FACE IN THE AIR!

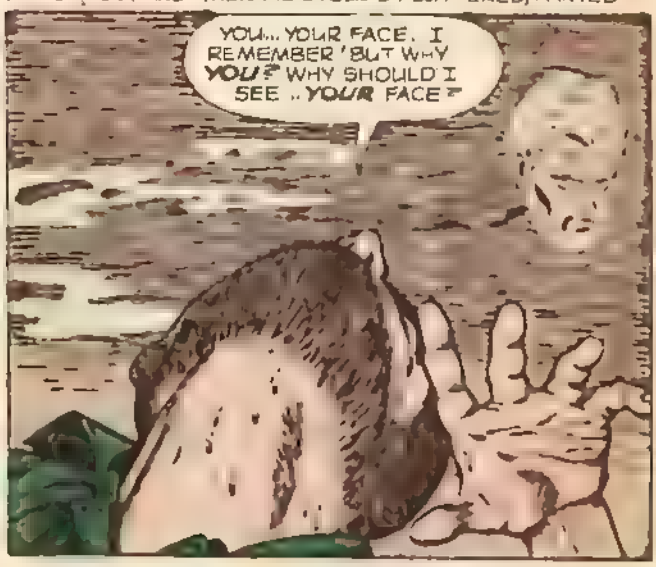


THE FACE APPEARED THE SAME INSTANT THAT FIRE AND THUNDER ENVELOPED THE SERGEANT! BUT AT FIRST, HE WAS ONLY VAGUELY AWARE OF IT.

THE SERGEANT TRIED WEAKLY TO REGAIN HIS FEET...

BUT HE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH.

IN THE FIRST MOMENTS, THE SERGEANT KNEW ONLY CHILLING NUMBNESS! AND THEN HIS EYELIDS FLUTTERED, PARTED



JUST A FACE FLOATING. IT WAS SO STRANGE. BECAUSE THE SERGEANT *DID* REMEMBER...

SOMEONE! THE SERGEANT REMEMBERED HOW *HE* HAD PLUNGED INTO THE POUNDING SURF WITHOUT THINKING! HOW HE HAD RISKED HIS OWN LIFE

BEEN A FOOL! BUT NOW - WHY SHOULD HE SEE THE FACE OF THAT MAN? WHY?

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE - YOU NEVER MATTERED TO ME

INTO A WELL OF NOTHINGNESS! BUT WHEN HIS EYES OPENED AT LAST, THE FACE WAS STILL THERE..

YOU..I STILL...

EASY, SOLDIER.. YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!

NO NURSE,

WHITE HAIR? IS THAT THE FACE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

BUT HE..HE'S REAL! NURSE WHO IS HE?

SOMEONE YOU OWE A GREAT DEAL TO, SOLDIER!

PROTEST

BEEN ARRANGED, LONG AGO, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE A STRANGER THE GIFT OF LIFE ..

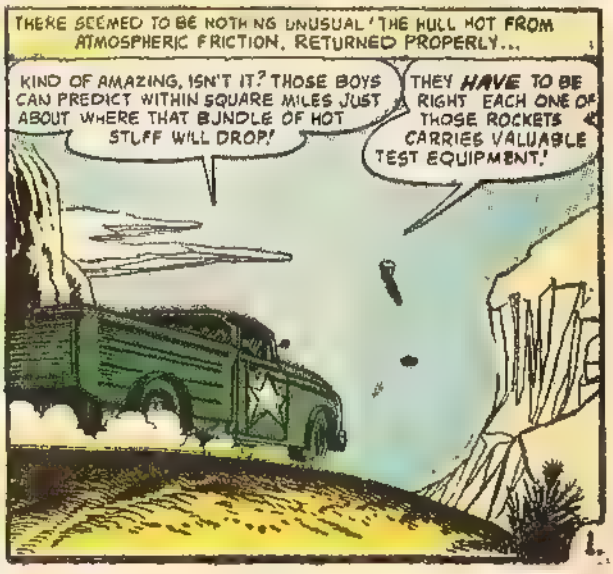
THAT'S MAJOR STEVENS! NO ONE ELSE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE DONE FOR YOU WHAT HE DID! HE'S A VERY

MAJOR STEVENS IS THE DOCTOR WHO OPERATED ON YOU! HE'S A *BRAIN SURGEON* IN THE WORLD WHO COULD

THE ROCKET HURTLED SKYWARD IN A FIERY BLAST! IT TORE THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE AT FIVE TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND, BIT DEEP INTO THE STRATOSPHERE AND THEN, SPENT AND BURNED OUT, ARCHED TO RETURN! TO THE OBSERVERS TRACKING BY RADAR BELOW, IT WAS JUST A ROUTINE TEST! THEY DID NOT DREAM THAT ROCKET X-24-B HAD MADE A STARTLING CONTACT ON THE FRINGE OF SPACE!

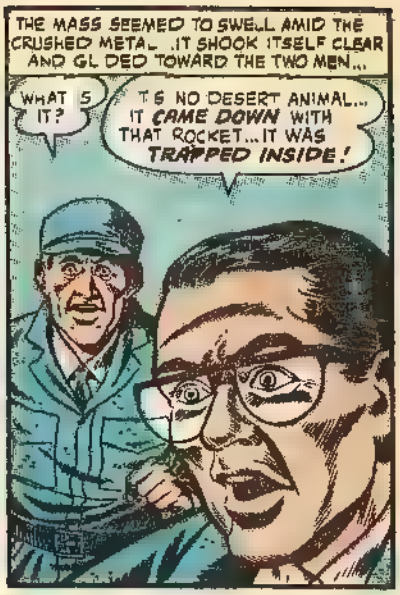
THE THING!

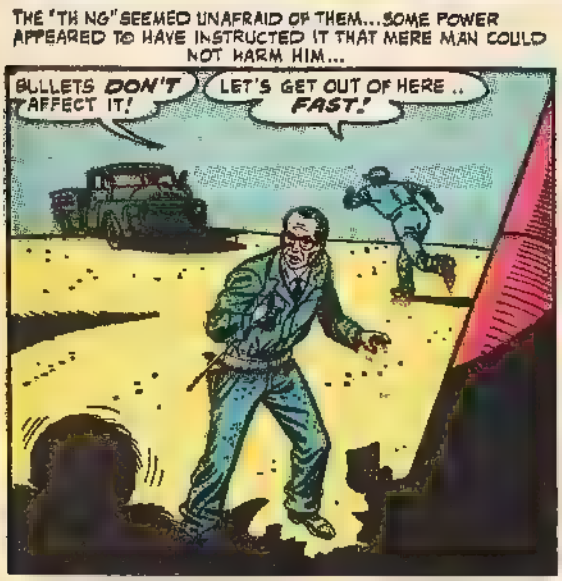
SPLIT-SECONDS LATER, RADAR TRACKER, PAUL BAKER, MADE HIS READINGS...
ROCKET HULL RETURNING ALONG CORRECT DROP PATTERN TOWARD PICK-UP AREA!
RIGHT. LET'S GO, TED!

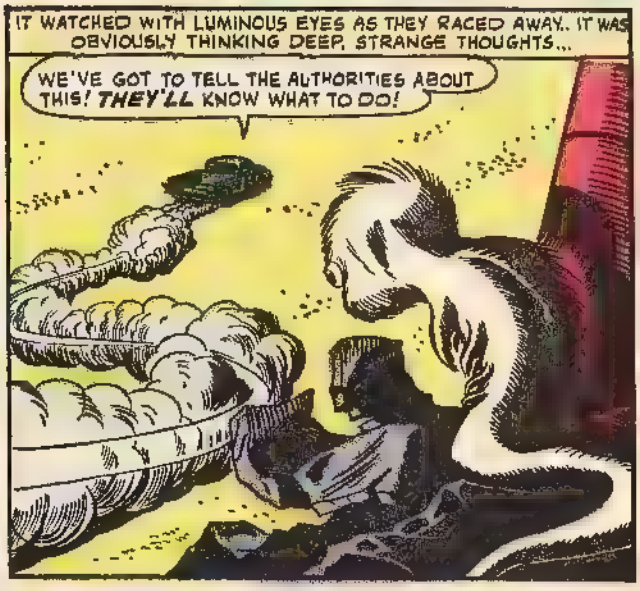

THERE SEEMED TO BE NOTHING UNUSUAL! THE HULL, HOT FROM ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION, RETURNED PROPERLY...
KIND OF AMAZING, ISN'T IT? THOSE BOYS CAN PREDICT WITHIN SQUARE MILES JUST ABOUT WHERE THAT BUNDLE OF HOT STUFF WILL DROP!
THEY HAVE TO BE RIGHT! EACH ONE OF THOSE ROCKETS CARRIES VALUABLE TEST EQUIPMENT!

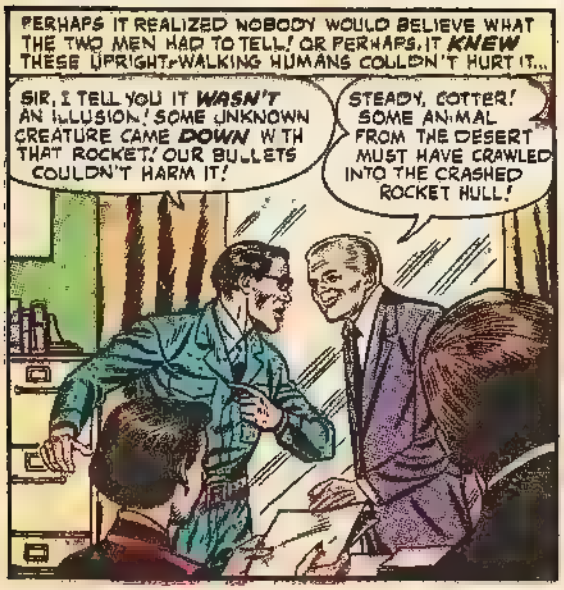
EVERYTHING STILL SEEMED QUITE NORMAL AS THEY REACHED THE CONTACT POINT

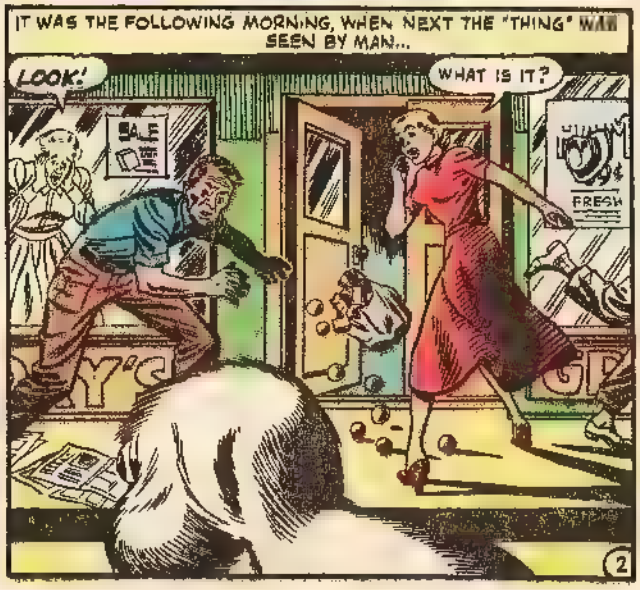
THEN, SOMETHING MOVED WITHIN THE SMASHED REMAINS SOMETHING BROWN AND FURRY...
TED... LOOK!

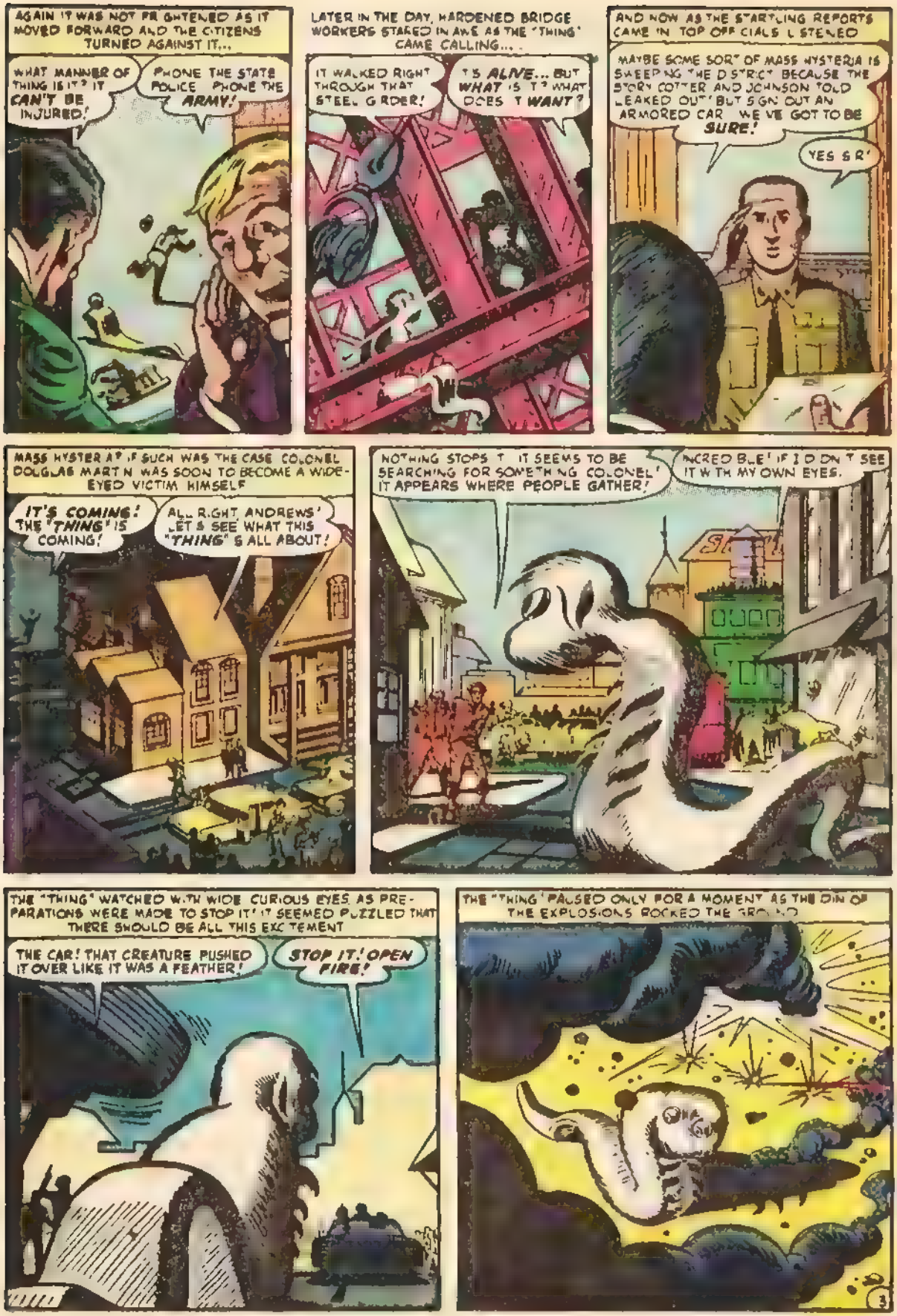

THE MASS SEEMED TO SWELL AMID THE CRUSHED METAL. IT SHOOK ITSELF CLEAR AND GLIDED TOWARD THE TWO MEN...
WHAT IS IT?
IT IS NO DESERT ANIMAL... IT CAME DOWN WITH THAT ROCKET... IT WAS TRAPPED INSIDE!


THE "THING" SEEMED UNAFRAID OF THEM... SOME POWER APPEARED TO HAVE INSTRUCTED IT THAT MERE MAN COULD NOT HARM HIM...
BULLETS DON'T AFFECT IT!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE .. FAST!


IT WATCHED WITH LUMINOUS EYES AS THEY RACED AWAY.. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY THINKING DEEP, STRANGE THOUGHTS...
WE'VE GOT TO TELL THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THIS! THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!


PERHAPS IT REALIZED NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE WHAT THE TWO MEN HAD TO TELL! OR PERHAPS, IT KNEW THESE UPRIGHT-WALKING HUMANS COULDN'T HURT IT...
SIR, I TELL YOU IT WASN'T AN ILLUSION! SOME UNKNOWN CREATURE CAME DOWN WITH THAT ROCKET! OUR BULLETS COULDN'T HARM IT!
STEADY, COTTER! SOME ANIMAL FROM THE DESERT MUST HAVE CRAWLED INTO THE CRASHED ROCKET HULL!


IT WAS THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WHEN NEXT THE "THING" WAS SEEN BY MAN...
LOOK!
WHAT IS IT?
SALE
FRESH
2


AGAIN IT WAS NOT RECOGNIZED AS IT MOVED FORWARD AND THE CITIZENS TURNED AGAINST IT...
WHAT MANNER OF THING IS IT? IT CAN'T BE INJURED!
PHONE THE STATE POLICE PHONE THE ARMY!
LATER IN THE DAY, HARDENED BRIDGE WORKERS STARED IN AWE AS THE "THING" CAME CALLING...
IT WALKED RIGHT THROUGH THAT STEEL GIRDER!
IT'S ALIVE... BUT WHAT IS IT? WHAT DOES IT WANT?
AND NOW AS THE STARTLING REPORTS CAME IN TOP OFFICIALS LISTENED
MAYBE SOME SORT OF MASS HYSTERIA IS SWEEPING THE DISTRICT BECAUSE THE STORY COTTER AND JOHNSON TOLD LEAKED OUT! BUT SIGN OUT AN ARMORED CAR WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE!
YES SIR!
MASS HYSTERIA? IF SUCH WAS THE CASE COLONEL DOUGLAS MARTIN WAS SOON TO BECOME A WIDE-EYED VICTIM HIMSELF
IT'S COMING! THE "THING" IS COMING!
ALL RIGHT ANDREWS! LET'S SEE WHAT THIS "THING" IS ALL ABOUT!
NOTHING STOPS IT IT SEEMS TO BE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING COLONEL! IT APPEARS WHERE PEOPLE GATHER!
INCREDIBLE! IF I DON'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
THE "THING" WATCHED WITH WIDE CURIOUS EYES AS PREPARATIONS WERE MADE TO STOP IT! IT SEEMED PUZZLED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ALL THIS EXCITEMENT
THE CAR! THAT CREATURE PUSHED IT OVER LIKE IT WAS A FEATHER!
STOP IT! OPEN FIRE!
THE "THING" PAUSED ONLY FOR A MOMENT AS THE DIN OF THE EXPLOSIONS ROCKED THE GROUND
3

AS IF DISAPPOINTED IN THE ANTICS OF THESE STRANGERS, HE AMBLED OFF IN MID-AIR
IT'S GOT FANTASTIC POWERS! GET TO THROW A RING OF STEEL AROUND
THAT NIGHT, THE COLONEL'S NET TIGHTENED ABOUT THE DISTRICT...
SEARCHING
SOMETHING HERE ON EARTH?
TELLING WHAT HAVOC IT CAN
PLANET CAN BE
WE MUST
IS OUR CHANCE! RUSH
VANISHED
IT COME BACK?
WHAT
THEN
REALLY
THE THING
HAPPY

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CONTINUED

. . . with one notable exception. They all seemed very suspicious, yet terribly curious. The Captain's fears seemed to be confirmed. "They act like men who have been away from civilization for a long time," he told the doctor.

"Could be just the shock wearing off," the doctor reassured him. But when the dishes had been cleared and the bedclothes straightened over the men, the doctor and the Captain sat down near the beds for their story.

"Tell me," the Captain began, "you men must have had quite an experience being marooned out there on the ocean for such a long time."

The men exchanged glances of doubt. The tallest one spoke to the Captain finally. "Thou art kind," he mumbled. "But would thee oblige us more and tell us the date and year, pray."

"Of course," the Captain smiled. "We had forgotten that you probably lost track of these things," and he pointed to a large calendar on the wall.

The men's heads turned and after a moment, exclamations of surprise and disbelief came from them.

"1955!"

"But this cannot be true!" the leader spoke. "Why, only a fortnight ago . . ." and then he stopped, suddenly aware of a great need for silence.

The others caught his distrust, and also held their tongues. The Captain and the doctor soon saw that they could get no more information from the trio, so they left the room. However, the doctor, instead of closing the door tightly, left it slightly ajar and the two men stood for a moment to see what they could hear. Soon, a conversation started.

"What d'ye think now, Ned boy?" a subdued voice asked.

"Aye, I cannot say. Not yet," a voice answered ominously.

A third replied, "What is it then that makes the ship so strange? An' what of the calendar on the wall . . and answer me this one, maties, if ye may . . . how does this ship go . . . I saw no signs of sails as they brought us in."

That stopped the men for a while, but soon the conversation started again.

"And yet, I can feel the ship sailin'."

"It's not *exactly* sailin', Andrew. What're the strange sounds comin' from below decks, and from the porthole, the water looks like it's rushin' by faster'n ever I saw it."

"An' did ye see the outlandish garb of the Captain?"

"Aye, an' his friend too. And look you, George, what're these things here on the table in all these jars and bottles?"

There was a silence then, when the rescued men were looking over the implements on the doctor's table, and during that time, the doctor and the Captain made their way up the gangway to the deck.

"I can't understand it," was all the Captain could say. But he did make up his mind to one thing. These men did not seem to be the mutinous type, nor convicts or prisoners. The Captain felt confident when he requested the radioman to wireless again to the Coast Guard Station to inquire about sinking ships. This time, however, the Captain especially requested any information about three missing sailors whose first names were Andrew, George and Ned.

While the Captain impatiently waited for his reply to the wireless, he thought that he might try questioning the men again, so he set off for the doctor and sick bay. He was met, however, by the doctor hurrying up the deck to see him.

"Where are they?" the doctor asked hurriedly.

"You mean they're gone?" the Captain asked. "Search the ship," he bellowed to all available crewmen.

"Their boat is gone, Captain," a crewman reported a few minutes later. "It slipped right off the ropes where we had her tied.

"Can it be that they've taken it and headed out to sea again? Do you suppose . . ." Captain Lomax went over to the deck rail and looked out to the empty sea.

Far out of sight of the *Bonnie Belle*, George, Ned and Andrew squinted hard to watch the last glimmer of the freighter disappear.

"Surely a ship from another time," Andrew said wonderingly.

"It must've been a dream," Ned said feelingly, "from being out in the sun too long. Surely there could never be a ship without proper sails."

Suddenly George nudged his two shipmates eagerly and pointed in the other direction. "Look, lads! A ship . . . a *real* ship on the horizon."

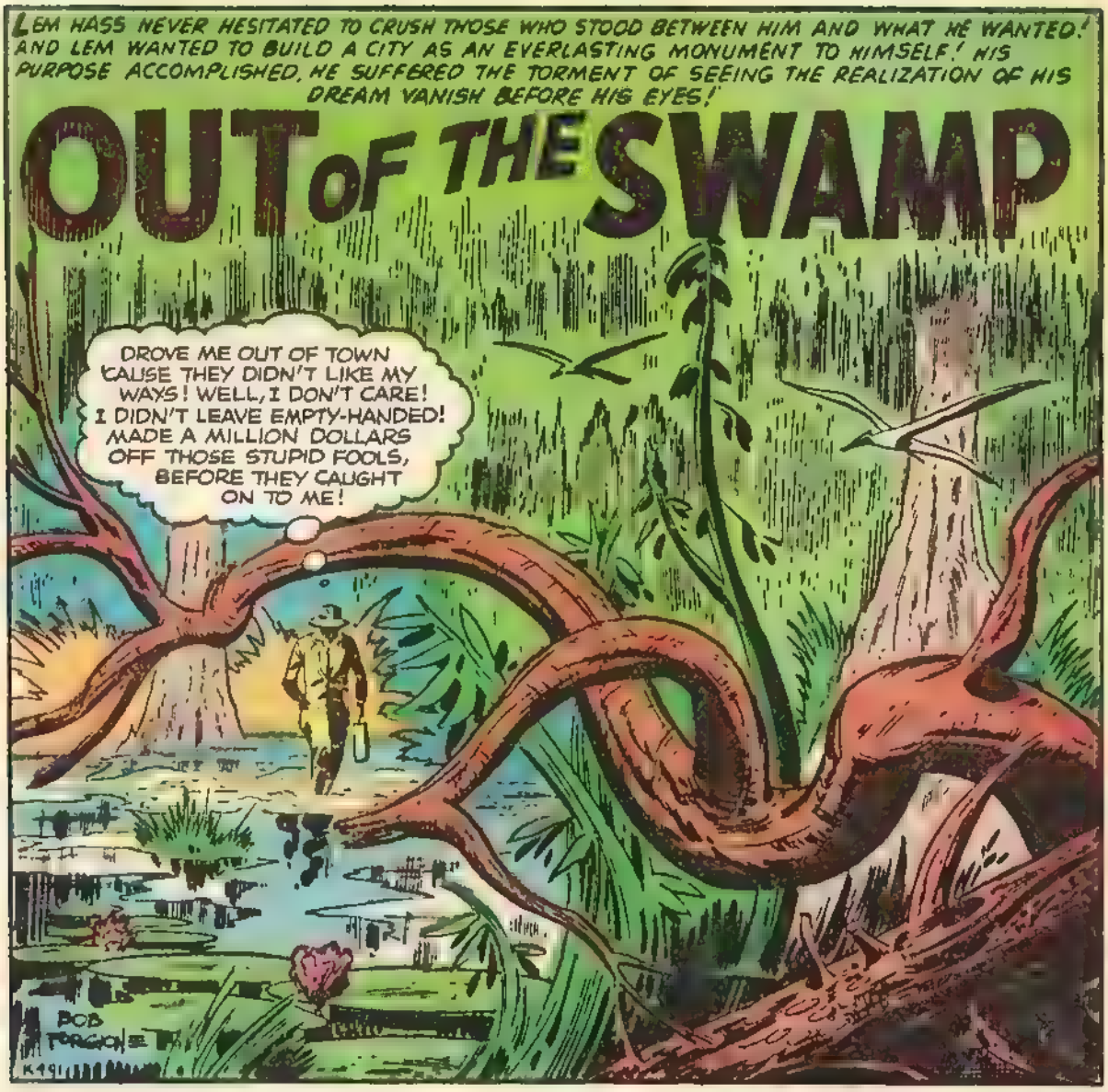
"It is that! Ho . . . Away my hearties . . . put your arms to the oars and we'll be within her in an hour."

"It's a pleasure," Andrew panted between strokes, "to see the sight of a good three-master again. That's the way a *real* ship looks!"

THE END G-774

LEM HASS NEVER HESITATED TO CRUSH THOSE WHO STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND WHAT HE WANTED! AND LEM WANTED TO BUILD A CITY AS AN EVERLASTING MONUMENT TO HIMSELF! HIS PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED, HE SUFFERED THE TORMENT OF SEEING THE REALIZATION OF HIS DREAM VANISH BEFORE HIS EYES!

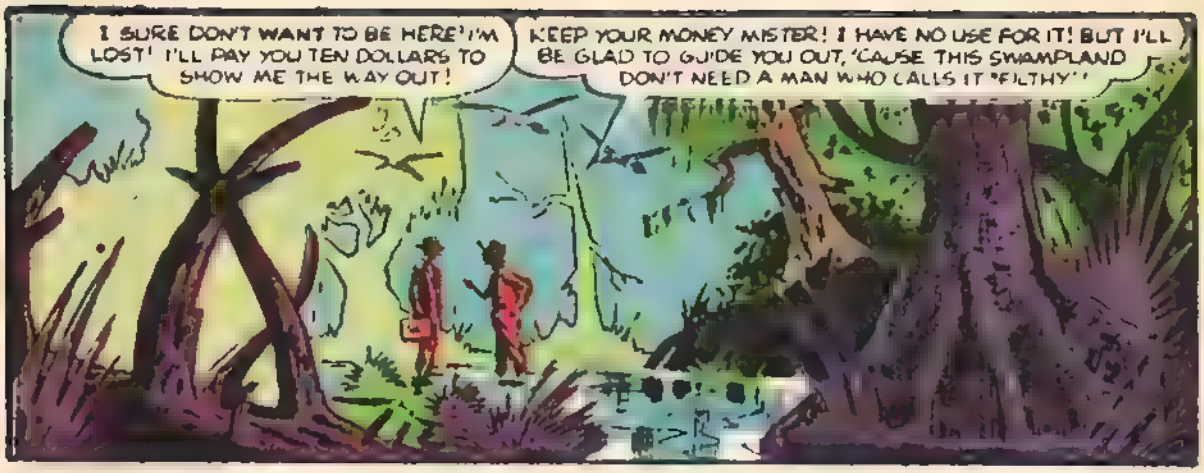
OUT OF THE SWAMP


DROVE ME OUT OF TOWN 'CAUSE THEY DIDN'T LIKE MY WAYS! WELL, I DON'T CARE! I DIDN'T LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED! MADE A MILLION DOLLARS OFF THOSE STUPID FOOLS, BEFORE THEY CAUGHT ON TO ME!
BOB TORGION

ALL THAT LEM HASS CARED FOR IN THIS WORLD, HE CARRIED WITH HIM IN HIS BATTERED SUITCASE...

A MILLION DOLLARS CASH! IT'S MONEY THAT BUYS THE ONLY THINGS THAT MATTER! NEXT TOWN I STAY IN, MONEY'LL BUY ME POWER! I'LL RUN THE TOWN, AND IF ANYBODY'S DRIVEN OUT, I'LL DO THE DRIVING!
TWA

FROM NOW ON, NOBODY'S GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN OR CANNOT DO! I'LL...
I LIVE HERE, MISTER! MY NAME'S RUPE TODD! AN' WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR WALKIN' THROUGH MY DOMAIN?
HELLO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THIS FILTHY SWAMP?

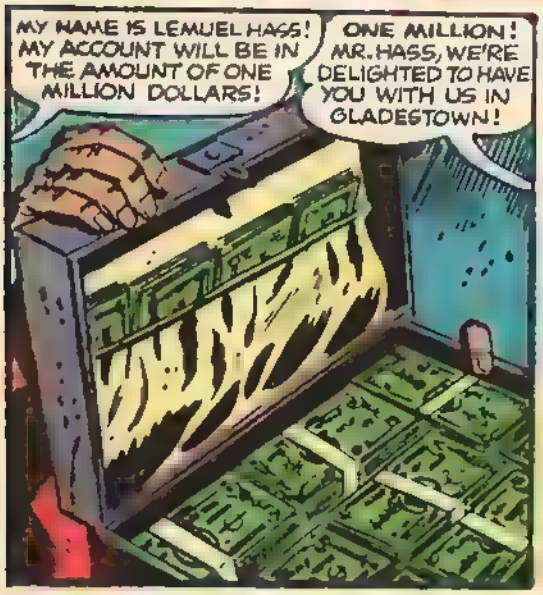

I SURE DON'T WANT TO BE HERE! I'M LOST! I'LL PAY YOU TEN DOLLARS TO SHOW ME THE WAY OUT!
KEEP YOUR MONEY MISTER! I HAVE NO USE FOR IT! BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO GUIDE YOU OUT, 'CAUSE THIS SWAMPLAND DON'T NEED A MAN WHO CALLS IT "FILTHY"!

IT WAS LEM'S WAY TO OFFEND PEOPLE! SO THERE WERE NO WORDS EXCHANGED BETWEEN HIM AND RUPE TODD, UNTIL THEY CAME UPON THE TOWN...

DON'T TELL ME WHAT I CAN'T DO! THIS TOWN SUITS ME JUST FINE! IT'S AWAY FROM THINGS! NOBODY CAN INTERFERE WITH ME!
IT'S AWAY FROM THINGS, ALL RIGHT! AND NOBODY'LL INTERFERE WITH YOU, LEAST OF ALL, ME!

THE REASONS LEM HASS WENT FIRST TO THE GLADESTOWN BANK WERE TWOFOLD! HIS MONEY WOULD BE SAFER THERE, AND HE WAS ANXIOUS TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH ITS QUANTITY...

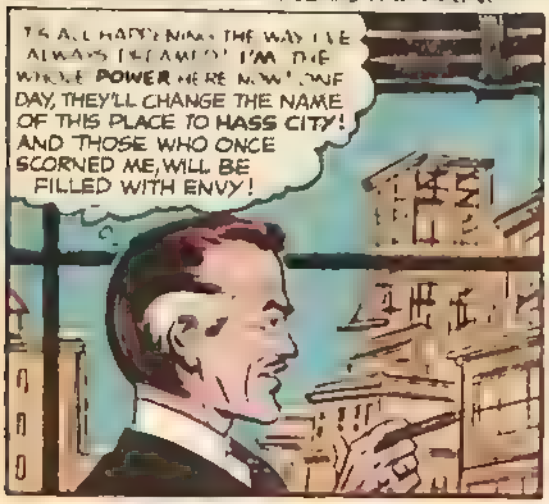
I'M LOOKING FOR THE PRESIDENT! I'VE A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY TO DEPOSIT!
WE'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO ACCOMMODATE A NEW ACCOUNT I AM PRESIDENT, SIR!


MY NAME IS LEMUEL HASS! MY ACCOUNT WILL BE IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
ONE MILLION! MR. HASS, WE'RE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU WITH US IN GLADESTOWN!

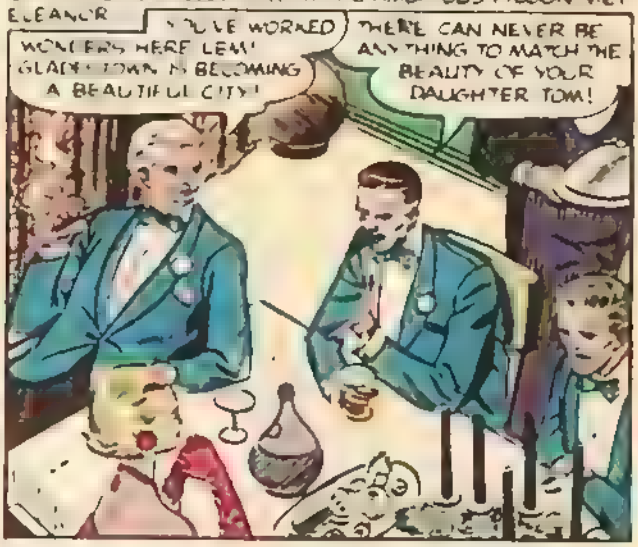
WITHIN 24 HOURS, ALL GLADESTOWN KNEW ABOUT THE RICH MR. HASS! THE TOWN'S IMPORTANT PEOPLE WERE EAGER TO CULTIVATE HIS FRIENDSHIP! IT WORKED OUT EXACTLY AS LEM KNEW IT WOULD...

I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOUR TOWN, GENTLEMEN! I'VE MADE PLANS FOR IT! I'M GOING TO MAKE GLADESTOWN AN IMPORTANT CITY, A RICH CITY! I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED TO HAVE STOCK CERTIFICATES PRINTED...
WE'RE RIGHT WITH YOU ON THAT, MR. HASS, AND WE'D LIKE TO INVEST CAPITAL IN ANY PROJECT YOU HAVE IN MIND!

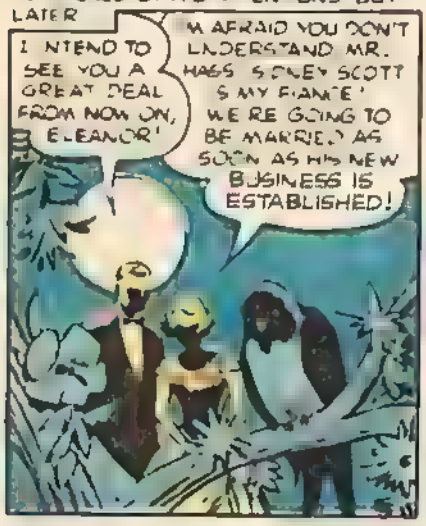
WITHIN A FEW MONTHS THE INVESTORS OF GLADES TOWN HAD THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF SEEING THEIR TOWN UNDER LEM HASS' DRIVING DETERMINATION GROW IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS


IS ALL HAPPENING THE WAY I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED! I'M DUE WHOLE POWER HERE NOW! ONE DAY, THEY'LL CHANGE THE NAME OF THIS PLACE TO HASS CITY! AND THOSE WHO ONCE SCORNED ME, WILL BE FILLED WITH ENVY!

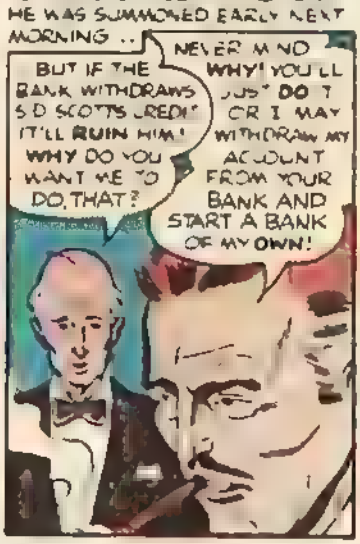
IT WAS WHILE DINING AT THE HOME OF TOM WILLIS CONTRACTOR OF ALL LEM'S PROJECTS THAT THE AMBITIOUS TYCOON MET ELEANOR


YOU'VE WORKED WONDERS HERE LEM! GLADESTOWN IS BECOMING A BEAUTIFUL CITY!
THERE CAN NEVER BE ANYTHING TO MATCH THE BEAUTY OF YOUR DAUGHTER TOM!

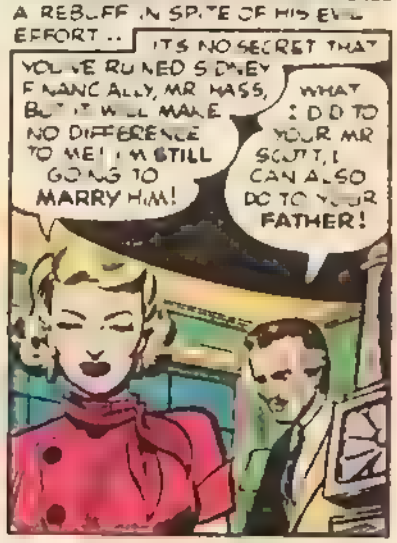
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR LEM! HE WAS SURE THAT ANY GIRL WOULD BE FLATTERED BY HIS ATTENTIONS BUT LATER


I INTEND TO SEE YOU A GREAT DEAL FROM NOW ON, ELEANOR!
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MR. HASS SYDNEY SCOTT IS MY FIANCE! WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED AS SOON AS HIS NEW BUSINESS IS ESTABLISHED!

BANKER BASIL SHELBY HASTENED TO LEM'S OFFICE THE MOMENT HE WAS SUMMONED EARLY NEXT MORNING ..


BUT IF THE BANK WITHDRAWS SID SCOTT'S CREDIT IT'LL RUIN HIM! WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT?
NEVER MIND WHY! YOU'LL JUST DO IT OR I MAY WITHDRAW MY ACCOUNT FROM YOUR BANK AND START A BANK OF MY OWN!

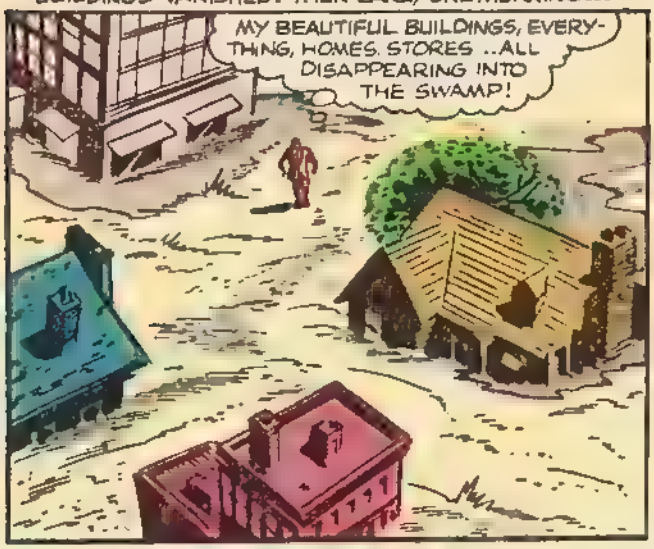
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COMING TO GLADESTOWN LEM HASS SUFFERED A REBUFF IN SPITE OF HIS EVERY EFFORT ..


IT'S NO SECRET THAT YOU'VE RUINED SYDNEY FINANCIALLY, MR HASS, BUT IT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO ME! I'M STILL GOING TO MARRY HIM!
WHAT I DO TO YOUR MR SCOTT, I CAN ALSO DO TO YOUR FATHER!

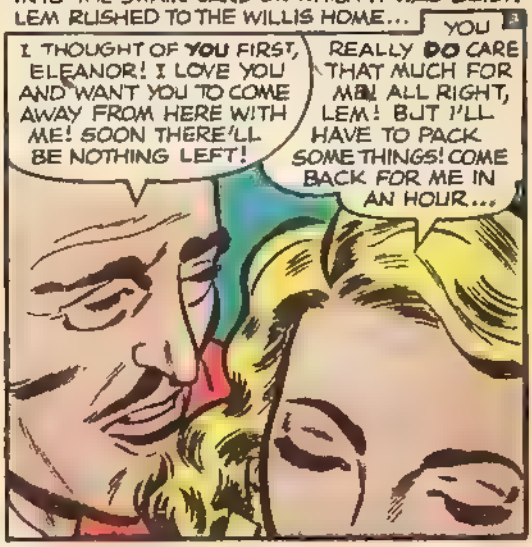
THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN WILL FIND OUT THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE LEM HASS! BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY DO TO US, I'D NEVER MARRY YOU! I DESPISE YOU!
I LOVE THAT GIRL! I'LL MAKE HER MY WIFE IF I HAVE TO RUIN EVERY BUSINESSMAN IN GLADESTOWN!

IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO BRING ABOUT THE FINANCIAL DOWNFALL OF TOM WILLIS! LEM MERELY REMOVED HIM FROM ALL PROJECTS! IT WAS AT ABOUT THAT TIME STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO LEM'S CITY ..

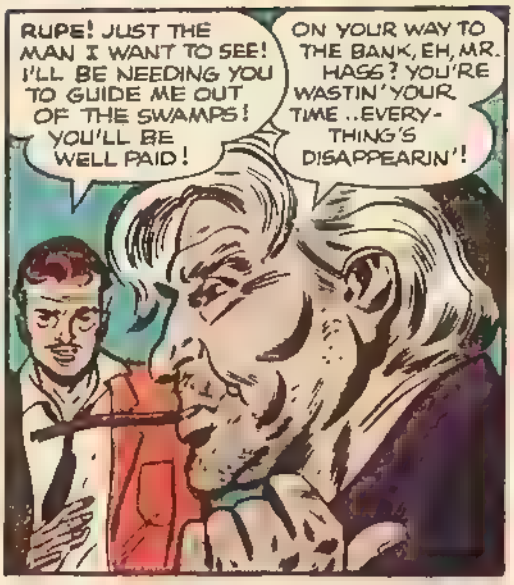
LEM HASS WAS FRANTIC, AS MORE AND MORE BUILDINGS VANISHED! THEN EARLY ONE MORNING...

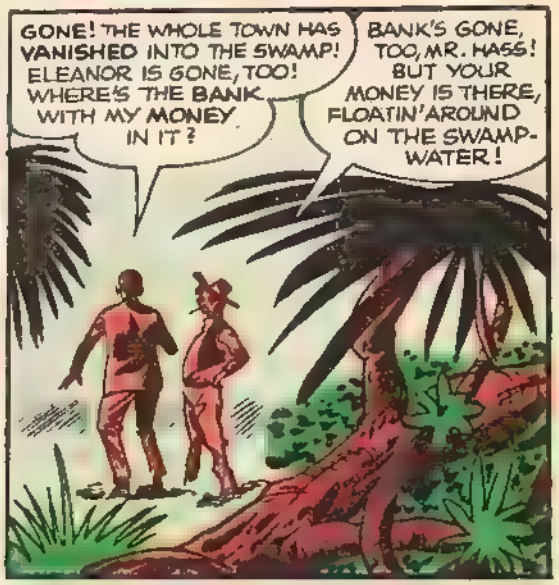


FASTER AND FASTER, GLADESTOWN WAS SINKING INTO THE SWAMPLAND ON WHICH IT WAS BUILT! LEM RUSHED TO THE WILLIS HOME...


I THOUGHT OF YOU FIRST, ELEANOR! I LOVE YOU AND WANT YOU TO COME AWAY FROM HERE WITH ME! SOON THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT!
YOU REALLY DO CARE THAT MUCH FOR ME, ALL RIGHT, LEM! BUT I'LL HAVE TO PACK SOME THINGS! COME BACK FOR ME IN AN HOUR...

WINNING ELEANOR WAS THE GREATEST TRIUMPH OF ALL! LEM WOULD WITHDRAW HIS MONEY FROM THE BANK, FLEE WITH HER, LEAVE THE INVESTORS HOLDING THE BAG...


RUPE! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE! I'LL BE NEEDING YOU TO GUIDE ME OUT OF THE SWAMPS! YOU'LL BE WELL PAID!
ON YOUR WAY TO THE BANK, EH, MR. HASS? YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR TIME ..EVERYTHING'S DISAPPEARIN'!


GONE! THE WHOLE TOWN HAS VANISHED INTO THE SWAMP! ELEANOR IS GONE, TOO! WHERE'S THE BANK WITH MY MONEY IN IT?
BANK'S GONE, TOO, MR. HASS! BUT YOUR MONEY IS THERE, FLOATIN' AROUND ON THE SWAMP-WATER!

I TRIED TO TELL YOU WHY YOU COULDN'T SETTLE DOWN IN GLADESTOWN, MR. HASS, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN! THE TOWN, ALL THE BUILDINGS AND THE PEOPLE IN IT...THEY NEVER EXISTED! IT WAS JUST A MIRAGE!
MY MONEY... GONE! I'M A POOR MAN... A POOR, MISERABLE, BROKEN MAN!
THE END

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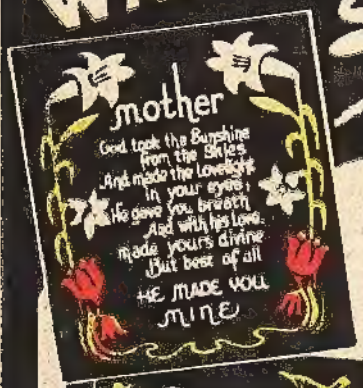

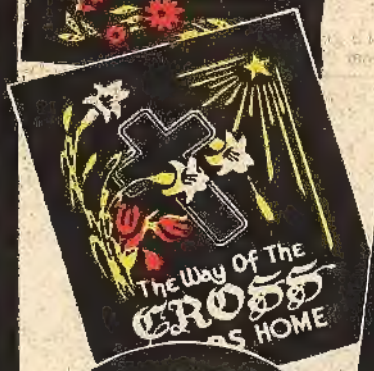

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IN 10 MINUTES of FUN A DAY YOU CAN DO ALL I DID

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How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These 5 PICTURE PACKED HE MAN COURSES Which YOU can NOW get FREE

BEFORE $1 PRICE GOES BACK
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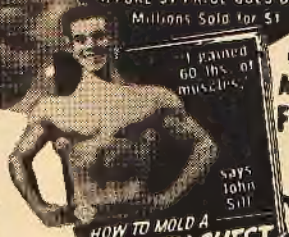

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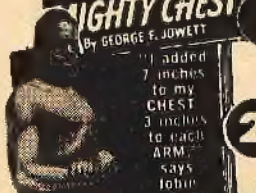

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JIM NORMAN

AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

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He Mailed Coupon

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NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Luckus.

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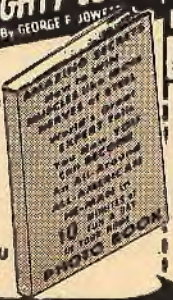

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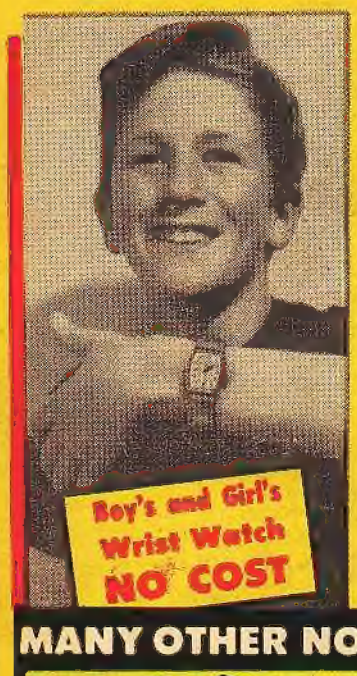

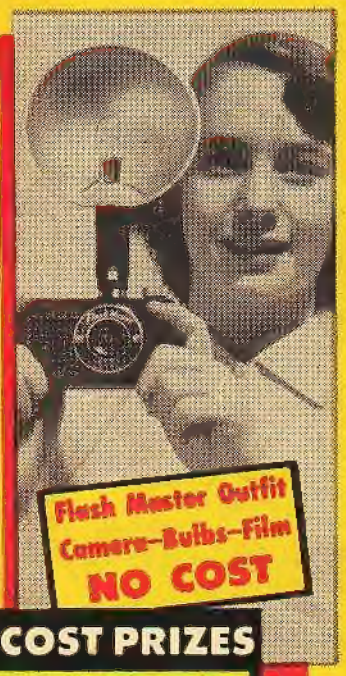

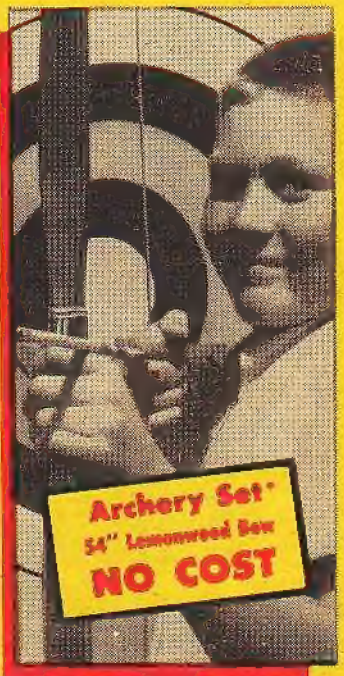

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